JEPH LOEB
JIM LEE
S. WILLIAMS
619 NOV 2003
BATMAN
DIRECT SALES
61921
$2.25 US $3.50 CAN
dccomics.com

619 NOV 2003
BATMAN
JEPH LOEB
JIM LEE
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JASON TODD R.I.P.
HERE LIES BAT
REST IN PEACE TOMMY ELLIOT
DIRECT SALES
$2.25 US $3.50 CAN
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JEPH LOEB
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619 NOV 2003
BATMAN
DIRECT SALES
61911
7 61941 20005 7
$2.25 US $3.50 CAN
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JEPH LOEB
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619 NOV 2003
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BATMAN
I KILLED JASON TODD AND ALL I GOT WAS THIS LOUSY T-SHIRT
DIRECT SALES
61912
7 61941 20005 7
$2.25 US $3.50 CAN
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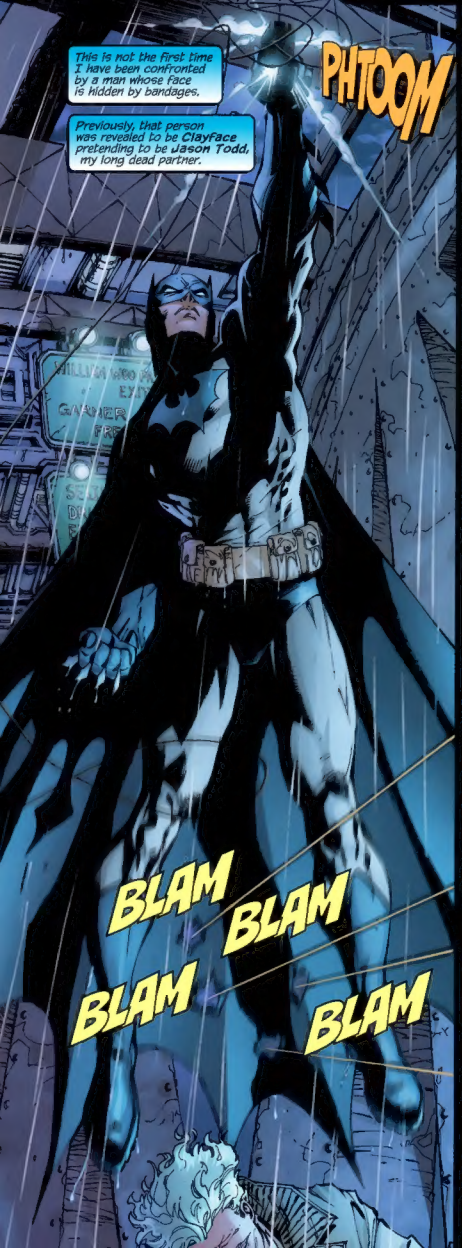
They say when you kill a man, you not only take away what he was...
...but everything he will ever be.
YOU'VE MURDERED HIM.
WE SHOULD BEHAVE TO OUR FRIENDS AS WE WOULD WISH OUR FRIENDS TO BEHAVE TO US.
I AM NOT YOUR FRIEND.
Aristotle.
The killer quotes Aristotle.
Harold's past has long remained a mystery. Mute, his body misshapen, he wandered through life as a victim.
He had a remarkable gift. It was as if he could speak to machines and, in particular, electronics.
His life needed purpose. I thought I had given him one.
I thought I had given him... enough.
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
EVILS DRAW MEN TOGETHER.
More Aristotle.
Maxie Zeus? Which enemy do I have who quotes Aristotle?


This is not the first time I have been confronted by a man whose face is hidden by bandages.
PHTOOM
Previously, that person was revealed to be Clayface pretending to be Jason Todd, my long dead partner.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

Years ago, Harold was found wandering the streets by The Penguin.
Taking advantage of his loneliness, The Penguin used Harold's unique abilities to aid in criminal activity.
I had hoped to have broken the pattern of Harold's trust in those who did not merit it.

He was invaluable to me as a mechanic in the Cave. I gave him unfettered access to the computers.
But, in his silence, there was a yearning to repair his body and voice.
One which my true enemy took advantage of and Harold betrayed me.
It cost him his life.

My world of late has been a series of distractions, ruses and misdirection.
Old villains acting in new ways. Friends twisted into acting as foes.
In the midst of it all, Catwoman and I have begun... a relationship.
Distractions.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

Harold's death is meant to keep me off balance.
His betrayal leaves my attention unfocused.
I have to shut all of that out.
My enemy is a marksman.
His trench coat is nearly generic. Presumably on purpose.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
I have seen others wear it. Killer Croc. Jim Gordon. "Jason." Even Harold.
PHTOOM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
Possibly the assassin Deadshot...? Or trained by Deadshot...
The guns are twin .45's. He's firing in pairs. Two bullets killed Harold.
The .45 holds twelve rounds. Unless he has one in the chamber.
I believe Bruce Wayne owns several.
VZIP
When this... all began, someone severed the batline. I fell, fracturing my skull.
Since then, I have been searching for that individual.
Someone who has played the heroes and villains in my life like pieces on a chessboard.
BLAM
BLAM

Jeph LOEB writes
Jim LEE pencils
Scott WILLIAMS inks
Alex SINCLAIR col
Richard STARKINGS
Bob SCHRECK editor
Michael WRIGHT associate editor
special thanks Mark CHIARELLO
I have found my opponent.
THE GAME ENDS TONIGHT!
Chapter Twelve
THE END
BLAM
I made a promise on the grave of my parents to rid this city of the evil that took their lives. By day, I am Bruce Wayne, billionaire philanthropist. At night, criminals, a cowardly and superstitious lot, call me...
BATMAN
CREATED BY
BOB KANE

Now, it comes down to a man with a gun.
I believe my enemy knows everything in my life can be traced back to a single moment.
DKUSH
A man.
With a gun.
SNP
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
Tommy Elliot's necklace. My childhood friend. He was buried with it.
LIKE THE JADE PENDANT, LIFE COMES BACK AROUND ON ITSELF, DOESN'T IT?
BOK
His voice is too muffled to be sure of his identity.
Tommy's mother gave it to him.
I TOLD YOU ONCE TO GIVE IT BACK, OR I'D HURT YOU SO BAD --
WHAM

-- BRUCE.
He knows who I am.
He tells a story only Tommy and I would know.
So many deceptions...
YOU DON'T GET TO PEEK BEHIND THE CURTAIN... YET.
...Tommy Elliot is dead.
GAH!
TCHCK
KDM
WHY HIDE YOUR FACE?
WHO ARE YOU?!
DO YOU THINK IT WAS BY COINCIDENCE THAT WE'RE HERE?
ON THIS BRIDGE?
ON A RAINY NIGHT?
THERE'S... THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT.
MY... MOM AND DAD... THEIR CAR...

I DO NOT KNOW *HOW* YOU COULD HAVE HEARD THESE STORIES--
--BUT, *DOCTOR THOMAS WAYNE* DID EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO SAVE THE *ELLIOTS*.
YES, JUST LIKE YOU *PROMISED* ME HE WOULD.
BAM
HE LOST MY DAD THOUGH. LEFT ME WITH MY MOTH-*URGH!*
"STICK A NEEDLE," BRUCE.
WHACK
"Stick a needle," An expression that Tommy and I shared as children...
CHUK
IS THAT WHAT ALL THIS IS ABOUT?
A CHILD'S BROKEN PROMISE?
NO, BRUCE.
BDFF
I WAS *NEVER* ANGRY THAT YOUR FATHER LET MY FATHER DIE ON THE OPERATING TABLE.
IT WAS THAT HE LET MY MOTHER *LIVE*.
WHAT...?
I INSISTED THEIR DRIVER STAY HOME THAT NIGHT. A RAINY NIGHT... A *SEVERED* BRAKE LINE...
I *WANTED* MY PARENTS TO DIE, BRUCE.
AND *YOUR FATHER RUINED THAT.*
BLAM

BADA-BOOM
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LUCKY YOU WERE TO BE AN ORPHAN.
ALL THAT MONEY BECAME YOURS TO SPEND.
WHEN I HAD TO WAIT YEARS -- YEARS -- WAITING FOR MY MOTHER TO DIE FROM CANCER OF ALL THINGS.
PRETENDING TO BE THE GOOD SON...
SINCE I KNOW YOU WERE COUNTING, YES, I HAD ONE BULLET LEFT IN THE CHAMBER.
DIDN'T SEE ME STRAP THE C-4 TO THE BATMOBILE WHILE YOU AND HAROLD HAD YOUR SHORT-LIVED REUNION, DID YOU?
NOW, AS MUCH AS I WOULD LIKE TO END IT HERE, THE GAME IS NOT OVER YET.
I'M TAKING YOU TO ARKHAM WHERE EVERYONE ELSE GETS THE PLEASURE OF UNMASKING --
PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR AND GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES!
NOW.
JAMES GORDON. THE FRIEND IN NEED.
AND WHO'S THAT YOU'VE GOT WITH YOU?
TAKE THE -:GNN:- SHOT, JIM.
DAMMIT... THEY'RE TOO CLOSE TOGETHER...
HARVEY... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU KNOW THE AGREEMENT --
YEAH, WELL --

ANY GOOD LAWYER WILL TELL YOU AGREEMENTS WERE MEANT TO BE BROKEN.
BLAM BLAM
NO!
CHK
CHK
Harvey Dent was once my friend. A headstrong District Attorney whose life was shattered when acid was hurled in his face...
...unleashing a second personality— the murderous criminal Two-Face.

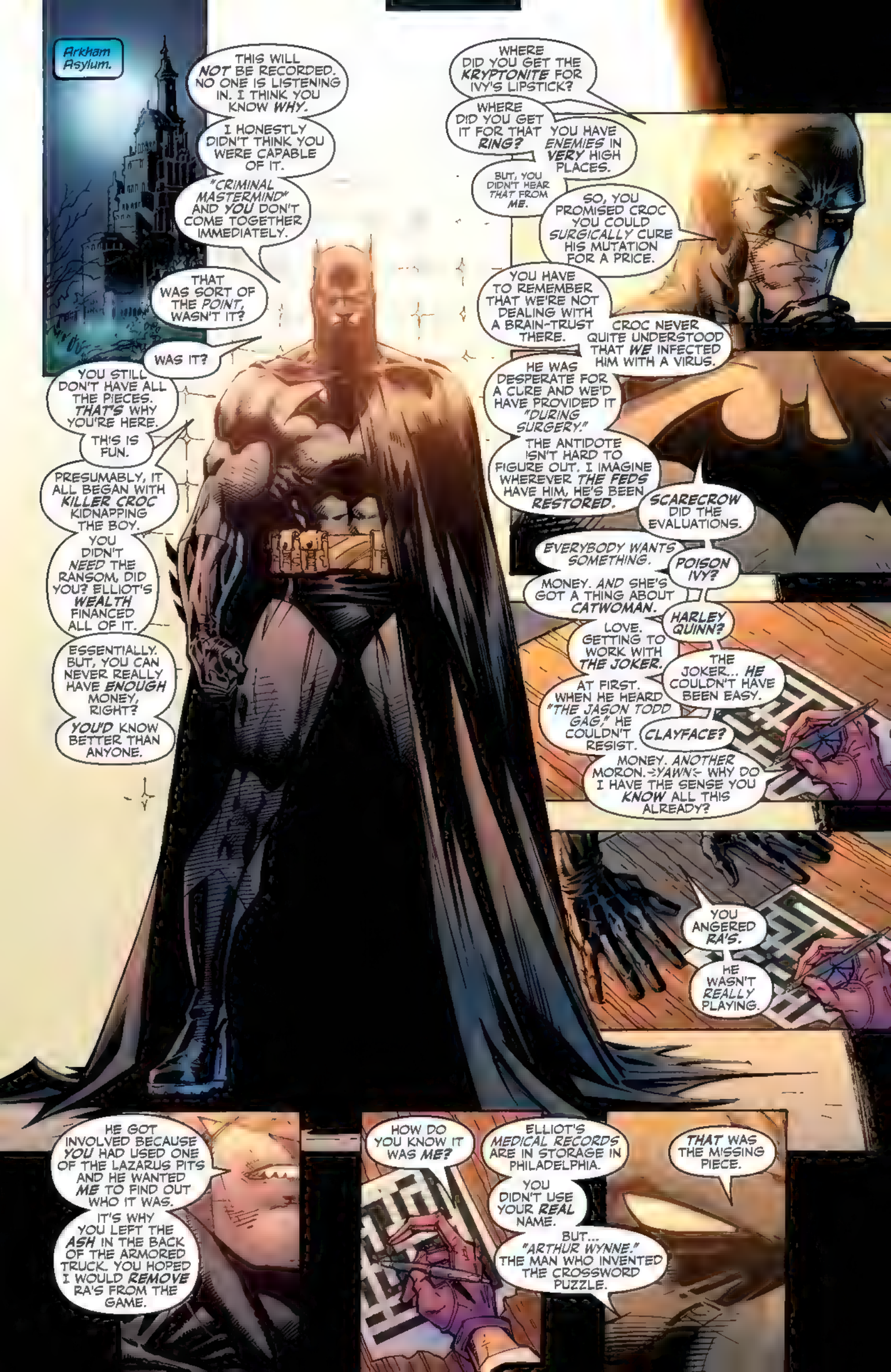
Harvey's face has been repaired.
His sudden appearance here is... unexpected.
GIVE ME THE GUN.
YOU CAN HAVE IT.
IT'S YOURS, ANYWAY.
WHAT?!
IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU, JIMBO. YOUR OLD POLICE WEAPON WAS USED TO "KILL" TOMMY ELLIOT.
Under those bandages --
-- I have to know.
Have I lost in Tommy a friendship...
...only to regain in Harvey one I'd lost?
LOOK, I SHOT "ELLIOT" IN THAT ALLEY. IT'S HOW I KNEW THE JOKER WAS INNOCENT.
Nightvision Engaged.
YOU SHOT DOCTOR THOMAS ELLIOT?
YEAH, WELL, THERE'S NOT A LOT OF VITAL ORGANS YOU CAN HIT WHEN THEY'RE MADE OUT OF CLAY.

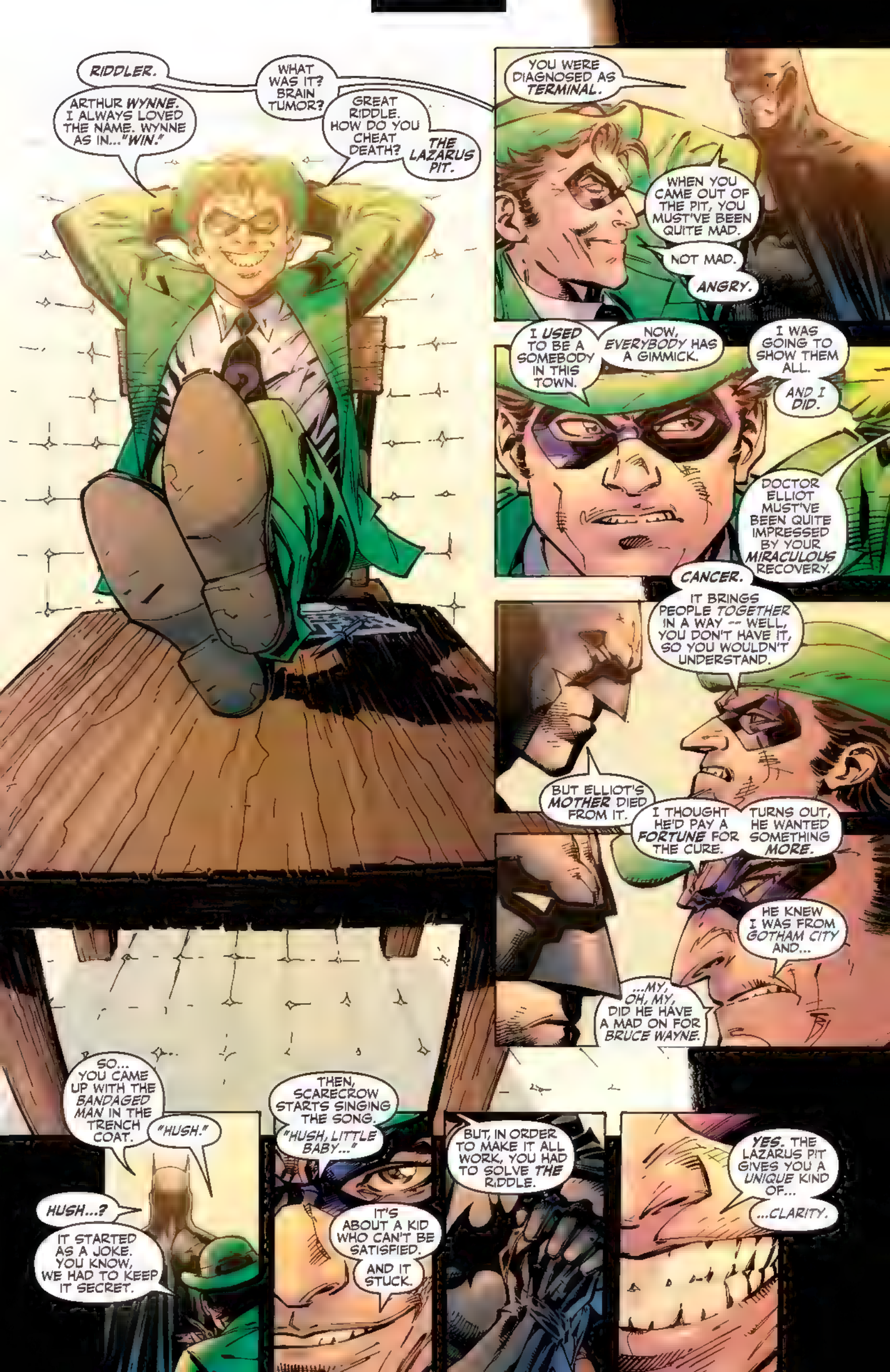
PHTOOM
SPLOSH
YOU'LL BE CHARGED FOR THIS.
YOU SAID YOU'D CHANGED. WHAT'VE YOU DONE?
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES WITH THE COURTS. DO THE COPS REALLY WANT BATMAN ON THE DOCKET?
BROUGHT YOU HERE. BETRAYED THE ALLIANCE. I DID WHAT I SET OUT TO DO...
...SAVED BATS WHEN HE NEEDED IT MOST.
HARVEY...?
YEAH, BATS. I'M GOING TO BE DRIVING FROM NOW ON. TWO-FACE IS GONE.
WHO DID YOUR PLASTIC SURGERY?
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? YOU JUST SAW HIM TAKE A HEADER OFF THIS BRIDGE.
FRIEND OF BRUCE WAYNE'S.
THE NAME.
ELLIOT.
DOCTOR THOMAS ELLIOT. DID THE WORK IN PHILADELPHIA.
THOMAS ELLIOT IS DEAD.
DIG UP THE GRAVE. I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND THE CLAY RESIDUE.
I keep wishing this wasn't Harold. That it was Clayface again.
But... Harold is dead.
LOOK AT THAT, JIMBO. IT'S STOPPED RAINING...

Gotham City. Two weeks later.
WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO BE FOUND, YOU DON'T WANT TO BE FOUND.
THAT'S RIGHT.
LET ME GUESS. YOU SCREWED UP. YOU'RE TRYING TO FIGURE IT ALL OUT.
YOU'RE ANGRY WITH ME, BATMAN, EVERYONE...
...BUT MOSTLY YOU'RE MAD AT YOURSELF.
GO TO HELL.
HEY, IF I WANT ABUSE, I KNOW A LOT OF OTHER PLACES I CAN BE.
SCARECROW REALLY MESSED WITH MY MIND.
I KNOW THE FEELING. IVY DID A NUMBER ON ME.
CAN YOU GET A HOLD OF IT?
YOU'VE CHANGED COSTUMES THROUGH THE YEARS.
EVEN CHANGED SIDES, IF SOME OF THOSE STORIES ARE TRUE.
WAS IT WORTH IT?
...
YES.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE DOING IT FOR YOURSELF...
...AND NOT FOR WHAT SOMEONE ELSE THINKS OF YOU.
I HEARD THOMAS ELLIOT IS DEAD AGAIN.
HEARD THAT, TOO.
GOOD.
BASTARD.

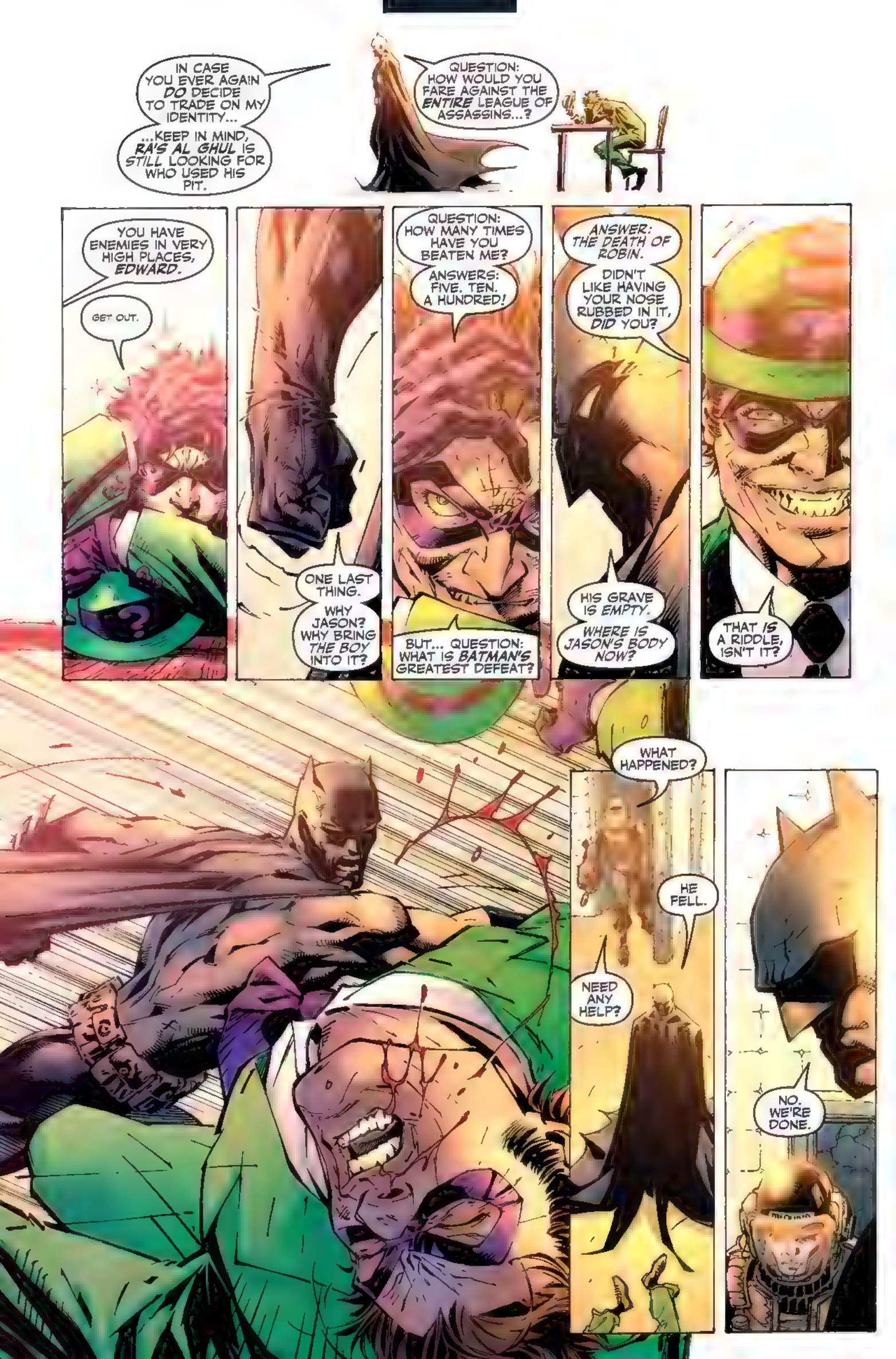
The Cave.
I'VE BEEN TO PHILADELPHIA. THIS WAS PLANNED FOR MORE THAN A YEAR. MAYBE TWO. I KEEP THINKING ABOUT "THE PURLOINED LETTER." HOW THE ANSWER WAS THERE ALL ALONG.
BRUCE...
SOMETIMES DETECTIVE WORK IS LIKE FINDING YOUR EYEGLASSES.
THEY'RE ALWAYS IN THE LAST PLACE YOU LOOK BECAUSE AFTER THAT, YOU'VE FOUND THEM.
I have brought Clark into this.
In an odd way, he can sometimes be less emotionally involved than I can.
DO YOU KNOW THAT DOCTOR ELLIOT--
"TOMMY...?"
DOCTOR ELLIOT USED HIS SKILLS AS A SURGEON TO ACTUALLY HELP HAROLD --
-- HARVEY DENT --
HOW COULD I HAVE NOT KNOWN WHAT WAS GOING ON AROUND ME?
THESE WERE THEIR DECISIONS. GIVEN HOW HE PRESENTED HIMSELF, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?
HE APPROACHED HUNTRESS. OFFERED HER THE MONEY TO REFINE HER EQUIPMENT.
SAID HE WAS "A CONCERNED CITIZEN" AND WANTED TO IMPROVE HER CRIME-FIGHTING ABILITIES.
SHE HAD HIM CHECKED OUT. HE WAS CLEAN.
I EVEN THOUGHT HE WAS CLEAN.
DO YOU KNOW HOW HE GOT TO ME?
WATCH.
SUBLIMINALS.
EVERY TIME I USED THE COMPUTER, HAROLD'S HIDDEN RELAY WOULD RANDOMLY FLASH HIS IMAGE.
WHEN I FELL... WHEN I NEEDED A SURGEON... I ONLY THOUGHT OF DOCTOR THOMAS ELLIOT...

BRUCE...
...WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?
I SEARCHED THE HARBOR. WITH THE STORM, HIS BODY WAS PROBABLY DRAGGED OUT TO SEA.
I KEEP THINKING HOW HE FOUND ME IN METROPOLIS. AND OTHER PLACES, I KNOW I WAS BEING WATCHED.
I THINK... NO, I KNOW HE DID SOMETHING WHEN HE OPERATED ON ME.
I NEED YOU TO USE YOUR X-RAY AND MICROSCOPIC VISION ON MY HEAD.
THERE IS SOMETHING... AT THE BASE OF YOUR SKULL... SO TINY...
A HOMING DEVICE?
POSSIBLY.
BURN IT.
I COULD HURT --
DO IT.
BRUCE... YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF...
I HAVE WORK TO DO.
THEN, I'LL STAY AND --
-- NO, YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH.
BUT, CLARK... I...
THANK YOU.
Elliot couldn't have done this alone. He needed contacts. Someone they all would trust.


Arkham Asylum.
THIS WILL NOT BE RECORDED. NO ONE IS LISTENING IN. I THINK YOU KNOW WHY.
I HONESTLY DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE CAPABLE OF IT.
"CRIMINAL MASTERMIND" AND YOU DON'T COME TOGETHER IMMEDIATELY.
THAT WAS SORT OF THE POINT, WASN'T IT?
WAS IT?
YOU STILL DON'T HAVE ALL THE PIECES. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE.
THIS IS FUN.
PRESUMABLY, IT ALL BEGAN WITH KILLER CROC KIDNAPPING THE BOY.
YOU DIDN'T NEED THE RANSOM, DID YOU? ELLIOT'S WEALTH FINANCED ALL OF IT.
ESSENTIALLY. BUT, YOU CAN NEVER REALLY HAVE ENOUGH MONEY, RIGHT?
YOU'D KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE.
WHERE DID YOU GET THE KRYPTONITE FOR IVY'S LIPSTICK?
WHERE DID YOU GET IT FOR THAT RING?
YOU HAVE ENEMIES IN VERY HIGH PLACES.
BUT, YOU DIDN'T HEAR THAT FROM ME.
SO, YOU PROMISED CROC YOU COULD SURGICALLY CURE HIS MUTATION FOR A PRICE.
YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT WE'RE NOT DEALING WITH A BRAIN-TRUST THERE.
CROC NEVER QUITE UNDERSTOOD THAT WE INFECTED HIM WITH A VIRUS.
HE WAS DESPERATE FOR A CURE AND WE'D HAVE PROVIDED IT "DURING SURGERY."
THE ANTIDOTE ISN'T HARD TO FIGURE OUT. I IMAGINE WHEREVER THE FEDS HAVE HIM, HE'S BEEN RESTORED.
SCARECROW DID THE EVALUATIONS.
EVERYBODY WANTS SOMETHING.
POISON IVY?
MONEY. AND SHE'S GOT A THING ABOUT CATWOMAN.
HARLEY QUINN?
LOVE. GETTING TO WORK WITH THE JOKER.
THE JOKER... HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN EASY.
AT FIRST. WHEN HE HEARD "THE JASON TODD GAG," HE COULDN'T RESIST.
CLAYFACE?
MONEY. ANOTHER MORON. :YAWN: WHY DO I HAVE THE SENSE YOU KNOW ALL THIS ALREADY?
YOU ANGERED RA'S.
HE WASN'T REALLY PLAYING.
HE GOT INVOLVED BECAUSE YOU HAD USED ONE OF THE LAZARUS PITS AND HE WANTED ME TO FIND OUT WHO IT WAS.
IT'S WHY YOU LEFT THE ASH IN THE BACK OF THE ARMORED TRUCK. YOU HOPED I WOULD REMOVE RA'S FROM THE GAME.
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WAS ME?
ELLIOT'S MEDICAL RECORDS ARE IN STORAGE IN PHILADELPHIA.
YOU DIDN'T USE YOUR REAL NAME.
BUT... "ARTHUR WYNNE." THE MAN WHO INVENTED THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.
THAT WAS THE MISSING PIECE.


RIDDLER.
ARTHUR WYNNE. I ALWAYS LOVED THE NAME. WYNNE AS IN..."WIN."
WHAT WAS IT? BRAIN TUMOR?
GREAT RIDDLE. HOW DO YOU CHEAT DEATH?
THE LAZARUS PIT.
YOU WERE DIAGNOSED AS TERMINAL.
WHEN YOU CAME OUT OF THE PIT, YOU MUST'VE BEEN QUITE MAD.
NOT MAD.
ANGRY.
I USED TO BE A SOMEBODY IN THIS TOWN.
NOW, EVERYBODY HAS A GIMMICK.
I WAS GOING TO SHOW THEM ALL.
AND I DID.
DOCTOR ELLIOT MUST'VE BEEN QUITE IMPRESSED BY YOUR MIRACULOUS RECOVERY.
CANCER.
IT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER IN A WAY -- WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE IT, SO YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
BUT ELLIOT'S MOTHER DIED FROM IT.
I THOUGHT HE'D PAY A FORTUNE FOR THE CURE.
TURNS OUT, HE WANTED SOMETHING MORE.
HE KNEW I WAS FROM GOTHAM CITY AND...
...MY, OH, MY, DID HE HAVE A MAD ON FOR BRUCE WAYNE.
SO... YOU CAME UP WITH THE BANDAGED MAN IN THE TRENCH COAT.
"HUSH."
HUSH...?
IT STARTED AS A JOKE. YOU KNOW, WE HAD TO KEEP IT SECRET.
THEN, SCARECROW STARTS SINGING THE SONG.
"HUSH, LITTLE BABY..."
IT'S ABOUT A KID WHO CAN'T BE SATISFIED.
AND IT STUCK.
BUT, IN ORDER TO MAKE IT ALL WORK, YOU HAD TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE.
YES. THE LAZARUS PIT GIVES YOU A UNIQUE KIND OF...
...CLARITY.

RIDDLE ME THIS...
...WHO IS THAT UNDER BATMAN'S MASK?
AND NOW, THE WORLD IS MY OYSTER.
RIGHT, BRUCE?
WHAT TIME IS IT WHEN AN ELEPHANT SITS ON A FENCE?
WHAT...?
WHAT TIME IS IT WHEN AN ELEPHANT SITS ON A FENCE?
"TIME TO GET A NEW FENCE."
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT ONE. IT'S WORTHLESS.
THAT'S WHY I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM YOU.
YOU HAD TO TELL ELLIOT-- BUT NO ONE ELSE.
NOT EVEN CLAYFACE WHEN HE WAS PLAYING "ROBIN."
I KNOW YOU, EDWARD NIGMA.
MAYBE BETTER THAN YOU KNOW YOURSELF.
RIDDLES ARE YOUR COMPULSION. YOUR ADDICTION.
AND A RIDDLE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS THE ANSWER TO IS... "WORTHLESS."


IN CASE YOU EVER AGAIN DO DECIDE TO TRADE ON MY IDENTITY...
...KEEP IN MIND, RA'S AL GHUL IS STILL LOOKING FOR WHO USED HIS PIT.
QUESTION: HOW WOULD YOU FARE AGAINST THE ENTIRE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS...?
YOU HAVE ENEMIES IN VERY HIGH PLACES, EDWARD.
GET OUT.
ONE LAST THING.
WHY JASON? WHY BRING THE BOY INTO IT?
QUESTION: HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEATEN ME?
ANSWERS: FIVE. TEN. A HUNDRED!
BUT... QUESTION: WHAT IS BATMAN'S GREATEST DEFEAT?
ANSWER: THE DEATH OF ROBIN.
DIDN'T LIKE HAVING YOUR NOSE RUBBED IN IT, DID YOU?
HIS GRAVE IS EMPTY.
WHERE IS JASON'S BODY NOW?
THAT IS A RIDDLE, ISN'T IT?
WHAT HAPPENED?
HE FELL.
NEED ANY HELP?
NO. WE'RE DONE.

I buried Harold on a hillside overlooking Wayne Manor.
His home was here. I want him to be safe.
It took some doing, but I finally found his last name for the marker.
I have been to too many funerals.
RIP HAROLD
SO...
THE RIDDLER...?!
One question remains, Selina and I both know it.
THEY WANTED TO TAKE MY LIFE APART. AND THEY WOULD HAVE --
-- BUT THEY NEVER EXPECTED THAT WHEN TWO-FACE WAS SURGICALLY ERASED --
--HARVEY DENT WOULD EMERGE AS A FORCE FOR GOOD.
DOUBLE-CROSSED BY TWO-FACE.
WHAT IS THE WORLD COMING TO?
SELINA.
THAT WAS A JOKE, BRUCE.
I... I AM NOT VERY GOOD AT THIS.
HAVING FRIENDS. PARTNERS.
IT ALL ENDS IN BETRAYAL AND DEATH.
IF I EVER COULD DO IT, THEN I LOST IT THE NIGHT MY PARENTS WERE MURDERED.
TELL THAT TO NIGHTWING. ROBIN. ORACLE.
DO I NEED TO GO ON?
WE BOTH KNOW WHAT SCARECROW SAID ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE AFFECTING MY MIND.
YES. AND THAT COULD'VE BEEN A BLUFF.
OR THOSE SUBLIMINALS YOU TOLD ME ABOUT.
OR. WE BOTH COULD BE UNDER IVY'S SPELL--
HUSH...

WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?
OW! YOU'RE HURTING ME.
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU, BRUCE?
Was she part of this...? Can I take that chance?
BRUCE...?
OH.
SO, IT'S OVER.
IF YOU WANT ME TO SAY, "I LOVE YOU..."
LISTEN, I DON'T NEED TO KNOW IF THIS STARTED OUT AS A SPELL.
FORGET ABOUT BEING A DETECTIVE FOR ONCE.
WE ARE WHO WE ARE. THAT'S WHY THIS WORKS.
MAYBE, SOMEDAY, YOU'LL COME TO TRUST THAT.
UNTIL THEN...

Someday...
The End

DC 09.03

IN DEMAND

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This Month's Cover by...
JIM LEE AND SCOTT WILLIAMS
COLORS BY ALEX SINCLAIR.

Next Month in...

Batman #620

Part one of the much-anticipated "Broken City", by the Eisner Award-winning 100 BULLETS team of Brian Azzarello and Eduardo Risso.

"Plas is much more flexible in a monthly book."
—Editor Joey Cavalieri

PLASTIC MAN #1 (DECEMBER '03)

What's crazier – giving PLASTIC MAN a monthly series, or having Kyle Baker produce it? Heck, how about both? That's right – the mad creative genius behind WHY I HATE SATURN and I DIE AT MIDNIGHT vows to turn DC's most malleable hero into a pliant, pliable, permeable protagonist for the 21st century! (And did we mention it's really funny?) Plas's frantic antics begin this December (but don't forget to bounce between his own series and JLA)!

The Hot List THIS MONTH

iCANDY #1

When a video game character takes the form of Matt Delaney's missing sister, the line between the video game and the real world begins to blur. Written by Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning; art by Kalman Andrasofszky.

THE DEMON: DRIVEN OUT #1 (OF 6)

Yakuza. Street racers. The Demon. When Jason Blood cuts a deal with modern-day alchemists, he gets much more than he bargained for. By Joshua Dysart, Pop Mhan and Art Thibert.

JLA-Z #1 (OF 3)

Featuring the first of a triptych of covers by Phil Jimenez, this stunning handbook for the Justice League includes villains and heroes from Amazo to Green Arrow, and features artwork by Jim Lee, Scott McDaniel and Jeff Parker.

SUPERMAN: BLOOD OF MY ANCESTORS

The final work of legendary artists Gil Kane and John Buscema! The Man of Steel's memories hark back to an era where the House of El began, but can Superman's earliest ancestor defy the great god Rao and restore order to Krypton?

WINICK'S LATEST CAPER

Judd Winick is a solo act writing OUTSIDERS, but word on the inside is that he and **Farel Dalrymple** (*Pop Gun War*) have conspired on a CAPER full of double-crosses, lies and lots of murder. Dalrymple also illustrates the first of three 4-issue miniseries, in which brothers/hit men Izzy and Jacob betray their Jewish Mafia bosses in turn-of-the-century San Francisco. The next storyline, drawn by **John Severin** (*Rawhide Kid*), stars Hollywood movie moguls mixed up in sex scandals and homicide, while the final arc involves artist **Tom Fowler** (*Grendel*), a human-organ courier and a transplanting mixup at the office. Plan to fit CAPER onto your reading list this October!

GET YOUR OWN DETECTIVE #27!

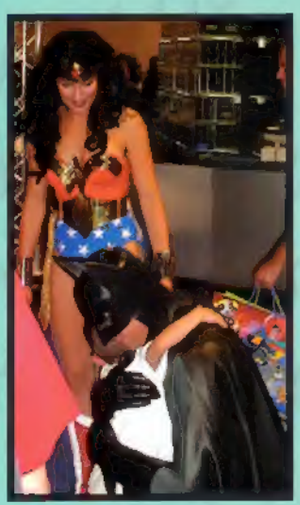
Our ears almost popped when we heard DC was giving readers an opportunity to get their own copy of DETECTIVE #27 in November. But it's true – Batman movie producer **Michael Uslan** and STARMAN artist **Peter Snejbjerg** are the men responsible for this ELSEWORLDS hardcover in the tradition of *The Alienist* and *Carter Beats the Devil*. And they guarantee that when young Bruce Wayne becomes the 27th operative in a Secret Society of Detectives, there'll be a surprise twist that will chill any fan of Batman's mythos to the bone! Wear a heavy jacket when you pick up this instant classic!

– your MOLE at 1700

To get more of DC in Demand's Inside Scoop, go to www.dccomics.com/dcindemand right now!

MONOLITH-IC MYTH-CONCEPTIONS

Jimmy Palmiotti and **Justin Gray** have finished dealing 21 DOWN for the moment, but they – with artist **Phil Winslade** (*Howard the Duck*) – have formed a mean feat of clay in THE MONOLITH. This new monthly explores the symbiotic relationship between a young woman ruled by drugs and a monstrous, childlike creature molded for vengeance against criminals. What we saw of the first issue has us convinced that THE MONOLITH is gonna be huge when it hits comics shops this December!



Batman greets a young fan at Comic-con International in San Diego, while Wonder Woman looks on.

Photo by Jeff Parker.

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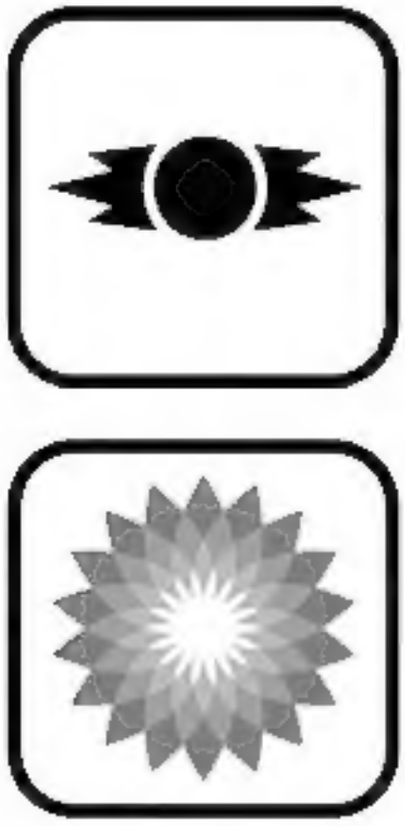

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